Red Economic Policies in Lithuania

The following is a part of a lengthy report emanating directly from Lithuania behind the iron curtain. For obvious reasons neither the source of the report nor the way in which it reached the outside world can be disclosed under present circumstances. It testifies to the fact that the struggle for the liberation of Lithuania from Soviet occupation, with its terrors, enslavement and indescribable suffering, is going on relentlessly despite overwhelming odds.

a) Agriculture. Compulsory delivery quotas, shortage of manpower, and general conditions of uncertainty and fear are strangling agriculture. For the purpose of imposing delivery quotas, all farming land is divided into three classes, of which Class III serves as the basis of comparison. One hectare of Class II soil equals 1.6 ha. of Class III; one ha. of Class II equals two ha. of Class III. A farm of thirty hectares (equalivent to twenty hectares of Class II land), last year had to deliver the compulsory deliveries of 45 centners of grain, 8 centners of meat, 2 tons of potatoes and other vegetables, 306 litres of milk per cow and progressively more, and quantities of eggs, wool, etc.

In addition to these compulsory deliveries, such a farm had to pay 10,000 rubles in taxes during a period of eighteen months. Head taxes are imposed, as well as separate taxes payable for livestock, dogs, cattle, hens, etc. Thus, from a family of six people, such a farm would pay a total of about fifteen thousand rubles in taxes per year. For compulsory deliveries the following prices are paid: 4.50 rubles for one centner of rye; 1.20 rubles per kilogram of butter. In the free market, a centner of rye is sold for 850 rubles, and one kilogram of butter brings about 200 rubles.

The greatest handicaps to agriculture, however, are the shortage of labor and general conditions of insecurity. In the spring of this year, farming land left untiled throughout the country accounted for 40 or 50 percent of the total. This includes untiled land belonging to deportees to Siberia, murdered farmers, land owners, evacuees, and farmers who have fled abroad.

b) Industry and trade. All major Lithuanian industries are incorporated into the all-Soviet industrial system and are dependent upon it. Ninety percent of the total

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FRANCIS "WHITEY" WISTERT

FRANCIS (Viliarai) WISTERT, was an All-American football player at Michigan University in 1933. He was succeeded, in 1941, by his younger brother Al as All-American at Michigan. The Associated Press had named Al Wistert the best pro tackle in the nation in 1944, 1945, and 1946. Al plays with the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League.

AMERICAN GAME COMES TO FINLAND

Riggs of marlins included in American Junior Red Cross gift bundle to Finland smashed three youngsters on the small island of Gloholm until San Krakow, American Red Cross representative, came along. He "amused down" and showed them all the fine points of the popular American game. (American Red Cross Photo)

CHICAGO — With the holiday season over, the K of L, Chicago District Choir will resume its regular weekly rehearsals. The next rehearsal will take place Tuesday, Jan. 7th, at the K of L, Youth Center, 2451 W. 47th St., at 8:00 p.m.

All members are cordially invited to be present.

Larger Crops in 1947

More than a million veterans have returned to farms from the armed forces, helping to relieve one of the most important obstacles to increased agricultural production — the labor shortage.

Larger crops will doubtless be planted for next year due to this factor, and to the favorable prices prevailing.

Synthetic Soap

In the next few years 25 per cent or more of all soaps used in the U. S. will be made from oil or natural gas, the president of a large oil company recently predicted.

"Synthetic soaps of remarkable properties have been developed, it was said, and one-quarter of the nation's soaps needs could be produced from one-hundredth of the present known natural gas reserves."
LITHUANIA - SYMBOL OF OFFENDED JUSTICE

By: The Observer

Even to the non-believing the Holy Father’s Christmas message must have been a powerful assurance, that in a world torn by confusion and injustice there still remains a center of unshaken moral leadership.

The voice coming from the eternal City of Rome, from Peter’s Rock, was different from the voices of all those statesmen, who refusing to see the tragedies and evils of to-day are always ready to assure the world of forthcoming happiness and peace. The Holy Father did not show any such optimism; on the contrary, He said: “Instead of advancing toward real peace, people in vast territories of the globe and in large sections of Europe, are in a state of constant unrest from which there could arise sooner or later the flames of a new conflict”. And He stressed: “If one wishes to return to the great principles of justice that lead to peace, one must go to Bethlehem”. Indeed, there is a contrast between these words coming from the City of God and the words and deeds which proceed from the City of Men.

Symbolic of this tragic contrast is the treatment accorded today to small and defenseless nations, once they are the prey of the powerful. There was an example of this at the UN Assembly a few weeks ago when the representative of a small nation, victim of Soviet aggression, came to appeal for justice. Mr. P. Zadeikis, the Lithuanian Minister in Washington, presented a memorandum to Secretary Trygve Lie, prepared and signed by a duly authorized committee of Lithuanians in Europe, which asked UN intervention on behalf of the people of Lithuania who are being deported and exterminated by Soviet forces.

The Lithuanian appeal, which was scarcely noticed by the press, was submitted at the time when the UN heard hot denunciations of the Franco regime in Spain as a menace to peace. However, the Lithuanian appeal was received differently. Truly embarrassed, Mr. Lie received Mr. Zadeikis in the UN Assembly hall, and by coincidence on his right stood the Soviet delegate, Mr. Gromyko. Mr. Lie politely assured the Lithuanian Minister of his sympathy, but as to action in Lithuania’s defense, well, he could promise little. For the UN this case was merely embarrassing and nothing else.

Although in the Franco problem few concrete facts were available to substantiate the accusations, the Lithuanians had plenty of first rate evidence to present.

The memorandum said: “The Soviet occupation authorities during the twelve months of their first occupation (June 15, 1940 to June 22, 1941), gathered around the clothes’ basket that represented the manger, instead of singing “Come All Ye Faithful,” piped out in shrill voices. “Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus.”

We laughed! But you know, the more you think about it, the more you become aware of the fact that the laugh was on us rather than on the child: in the play. For they remembered something that many of us have forgotten — that Christmas is really just one, big, world-wide birthday party. It is a birthday party for Jesus Christ. Who was born almost two thousand years ago in a stable on a hillside not far from the tiny town of Bethlehem in Judea.

It is because of the birth of Jesus Christ that every year about this time we feel our hearts swelling with what we call “the Christmas spirit.” But the true Christmas spirit is really nothing else but love — love for our mothers and fathers, love for our brothers and sisters, love for our friends and for all mankind. We seem to be actually bubbling over with love, and we express this love through our gifts and Christmas cards, through our cheery “Merry Christmas” to everyone we meet.

But have you ever tried to explain, to anyone just what causes this love? Is it caused by the mere celebration of the birthday of a great man? No, the spirit of love that is in our hearts on Christmas is caused by the Infinite love of God stretching down through the centuries from that first Christmas when He gave to you and to me, to all mankind the most precious gift the world has ever received — His Son, Jesus Christ.

What is more wonderful, the spirit of love that is in our hearts today is the spirit of the Christ who is alive in our lives today.

The birth of Christ was like a pebble of love dropped into the sea of humanity, and the waves from that pebble have spread farther and farther through the ages, until now, two thousand years after Christ’s birth, we still feel those ripples of love gently lapping against our hearts, and filling them with His love.

God dropped this pebble into the sea of humanity that through the gift of the Saviour Jesus He might show His love for us. And it is through our admiration of the Infant Jesus that we return our love for God. We celebrate the birth of Christ, yes, but we celebrate too, the fact of Christ living, the same, yesterday, today and forever. Christmas is a reminder of love and the hope we bring to the children and the aged of the world.

(Continued on page 4)
How I Became a "Volunteer"

By E. Matukas

3 A.M. I had just returned from guard duty. The pre-dawn gray light was filtering through the barracks windows. My fellow soldiers were fast asleep in their bunks.

Two hours sipped by silently. Suddenly the quarter-ly's sharp shril whistle split the air. It's alarmed yet company up! Company-ny-yy up! echoed through the barracks hall. This was to be our last morning as soldiers, because today we were scheduled to disperse and return to our own farms. In protest against the orders to turn our troops into Ger-many's stooges.

A German armored car was rolling by and raking the barracks with machine gun fire. I dropped to the floor. Window panes shattered, glass fell to the floor, plaster was falling from the ceiling. It was hard to understand the reason. The reason, shout from the hallway — "The Germans have encircled us and are shooting!"

Pandemonium broke loose. A moment later we rushed into the yard. Someone yelled "Take cover in the sugar factory!" We practically flew across the open field. Two hundred meters to the bushy banks of the river and safety! My friends Vincent was a pace ahead of me. "Trrrrrr...rat...tat...tat..." whined a machine gun direct in front of us. I stumblei-ly in front of us. I stumbled, fell. Vincent took a few steps, arms out-stretched he pitched forward on his face, dropping on the soil we all had fought so desperately hard to defend.

I crawled toward the river-bank. The machine gun con-tinued firing, followed in close succession by rifle shots and exploding hand grenades. The noise finally died down. I waded across a ditch, got up, raised my head and stared — straight into the leering face of an armed German. who in a guttural voice commanded 'Hanee hoch!' (Hands up.) Then in Lithuanian — "Duuk ginkli!" (Surrender arms.) From his accent I gathered he was one of the "repatriated" to native "Volksdeutsche". He was set to kill. I told him I had no arms, because last night all arms were surrendered. He, back to the barracks', he barked, motioning with hi-tommygun.

My comrades were all lined up in the barracks yard, hands upraised. They were encircled by SS trooper-s with fixed bayonets. They drove us into the rid-ing rank. An armored car lumbered up to the door. An SS officer quietly stated: "Don't try to run away, you will be shot without warning!"

Hours passed. The afternoon wore away. Night came. Finally we summed down on the grassy ground. The following morning we were driven in small goup-s to the girls' junior college grounds. We passed a phyc-hical examination. Metal tags were hung around our necks. We received sheets of paper identifying us as members of the "Rams-pheifer" (auxiliary combattants). In the afternoon we were dressed in German Luftwaffe (Air Corps) uniform-s. We saw crows gathered outside. I glanced out — and there were my dear parents. We were per-mitted to speak to them but a moment, and only from a distance.

Heavy SS trucks arrived in the evening. There were 106 of us — the other half succeeded in escaping. We were called by numbers. Each man, whose number was called, picked up his belongings and was placed aboard the truck. My number was called and I took my bags and took my place in the truck. We were taken back to the same barracks, guarded by re-enforced se-t-tries.

We retired for the night and tried to sleep. Despair engulfed all.

We were awakened at 4 A. M. Ordinary passenger au-tonomobiles were lined up in the yard, with SS sentries running back and forth. They were all awearing "Perfluchtes Volk" (The damned nation, or people). We were all swearing at our hated German guards. The cars were loaded into the cars. In silence we passed the city of Marijampole and turned northward, toward Kybartai, The direction was apparent — the "Greater Reich".

The morning mist and our hopeless future de-preased us. We looked with sad eyes on the blooming cherry orchards and the fields. "How nice to be free again..."

The frontier of Germany. In bitter silence, we left our native land, The monotonous plains of Elast Prussia rolled by. We passed Gumbinnes, Isterburg, and Koenigs-berg. Where would we stop? On and on we went.

Marriburg and Elbing raced by. We turned toward Danzig. Another hour and we approached a forest. The cars stopped. We peered at the road sign: "Waldiager Stutthof" (The Forest Camp). Our eyes were glued up on the city of bar-racks, surrounded by barbed wire fences and armed guards. The cars stopped again. We were met by armed guards of the Stutt-hof concentration camp, with bayonets pointing at us. The gate was swung open, and our cars entered funeral-like. We looked back at the curious glances of the lean, hungry inmates of the camp. On their coats sleeves they bore a painted red cross with a number. Suddenly from a barrack we heard a shout — "The Lithuanians!", We looked in the direction whence the cry came. I re-cognized the former "Coun-selor" Germanatas, the Re-verend Lipniunas, Lieut. Va-Domerski, whose sketches of popular Lithuanian athletes have been appearing in the ENGLISH SECTION during the past several weeks. These sketches are taken from Mr. Yuknis' book THE LITHUANIANS, 'The People of Song', a very interesting work about Lithuanian's ancestry and culture, especially written for the special notice about this work, appearing on page 1 in to-special notice about this work, appearing elsewhere in to-day's ENGLISH SECTION.

Mr. Yuknis' cartoons have appeared nationally in a number of comic magazines, newspapers and trade jour-nals.

We want you to meet ANTHONY DENIS YUKNIS, gifted artist and cartoonist, whose sketches of popular Lithuanian athletes have been appearing in the ENGLISH SECTION during the past several weeks. These sketches are taken from Mr. Yuknis' book THE LITHUANIANS, 'The People of Song', a very interesting work about Lithuanian's ancestry and culture, especially written for the special notice about this work, appearing on page 1 in to-special notice about this work, appearing elsewhere in to-day's ENGLISH SECTION.

(Continued on p. 4)
What of the New Year?

J. P. K.

We've just stepped over threshold of another year, greatly expectation in thought, wondering what the future has in store for us. We entered the New Year with hearts filled with the happy remembrances and sentiments of the past year. However, the uncertainty of the New Year is filled with mystery and wondertment for each and every one. One can only imagine whether we will be able to answer such questions as - what will be the moments of gladness, smiles, the moments of pain - what has Almighty God destined for me in the New Year?

The terrible war through which we have passed has, without doubt, marked the ideas, the hearts, and the characters of countless individuals. All of us felt the burden of war in some way or other. Many have suffered this self same burden until literally speaking, in the real sense of the word, we've done for them to do more. Many were the difficult situations that arose and countless heart- breaking circumstances have been the portion of a great many individuals. We have but to note the innumerable gold stars displayed in connection with the time downs - silent symbols of people who had given up a part of themselves so that others might retain what is dearest to them.

That was the past - 1946 - left to be laid away - put aside, forgotten. We've entered upon a New Year, time of happy remembrances which is to give everyone what Youth is to life. Old discaragments, misfortunes, great and small, as they were, can be disregarded in the life that is born of a new start. In a word, the New Year is the time for planning as though nothing had happened.

(VOLUNTEER, from p. 3)

Lentillas. There were many other Lithuanians whom I did not know. We were lined up in front of a vacant barrack. Our heads were counted. The camp's commandant reminded us that any attempt to escape would end in failure. "- This is why the Holy Father calls upon all Christians to seize upon the New Year to marry good with evil in the name of their peculiarity. Let us resolve for the New Year to be ever more charitable and just towards our neighbor. That way we may be sure that the lily business, misfortunes and misfortunes of life will not assail us. Also, the peace which we are all hoping for will be realized since 'to commit no wrong against another, to respect the sanctity of another's rights, to practice mutual trust and good will, these are indeed the unchanging and lasting bonds of Peace, whose virtue is such that she stifles even the germs of hatred and jealousy."

Thus all of us - we can use it - the New Year - as a shining new instrument placed at our disposal. But like any instrument - it will accomplish nothing if left laying aside; it must be taken up and wielded with energy and vigor. As youth takes life into its hands, let us seize upon the New Year and use it to advance toward Peace and success in life as we have never advanced before.

Comedienne

PAMELA BRITTON was spotted by a height MGM talent scout, making fun in the Chicago column of "Oklahoma!". Before you could say local girl makes good she was signed to a contract and whisked off to Hollywood. Her latest laugh-shout is in "The Bachelor & A Wife."

LITHUANIA, from page 2

The courage to take up the issue and accede the powerful Soviets before the United Nations of murder. The matter was simply sent to Committee Nr. 3, from there to the Committee on Human Rights and finally returned to the Secretary General's office. There, it seems, it will remain. No, unpropped, small Lithuania had no chance before the tribunal of the City of Men. Its statesmen are still trying to marry good with evil in the name of their peculiar conception of unity.

The Holy Father warned against precisely this type of duality in justice, seeing in it the promise of inescapable doom. He appealed instead for: "A peace that is morally noble and irreproachable; such a peace that may teach future generations to outlaw the trace of brutal force and to restore to the idea of right the priority of place from which it was wickedly dislodged". Moreover, the proud City of Men seems very remote from the realization of that eternal truth and choses to build world order on foundations of dynamism. What is this, why, continuous disturbances of statesmen, chances of true peace in 1947 are so slim. This is why the Holy Father calls upon all Christians for action.

(IRON CURTAIN, fr. p. 1.)

production is sent to Moscow. In the field of commerce, there exist State (so-called cooperative) and commercial (or legalized black-market) stores. Black-market prices are eight or nine times greater than the prices listed on the ration cards. With ration cards, the people can obtain practically no consumer goods, for these go first to Communist Party members, People's Ministers, and NKVD officials. Commercial store prices for a man's suit range from 7,000 to 8,000 roubles, while work shoes cost 1,000 roubles.

In exchange for agricultural and industrial products sent to Russia, Lithuania receives some kerosene, coal, and salt of poor quality. The ratio of goods exported and imported is about: 1 to 1, in favor to Lithuania's disadvantage.

c) Earnings. The incomes received by employees and workers reflect the class distinction and antisocial policies of the Soviet system. The average earnings of a laborer or a low-paid employee are about 350 roubles a month, of which only about 200 roubles remain after compulsory deductions have been made. The People's Ministers, members of the Communist Party central committee, and higher NKVD officials receive 400 roubles a month after deductions.

Moreover, these few persons who are close to the Government can improve their living standards considerably by so-called "limit cards" which grant the holder the right to buy textiles, wearing apparel, and food products at special stores at state-set prices, and bestow various privileges regarding living quarters, use of means of transportation, etc. To the ranks of such privileged persons belong artists, writers, and painters, the majority of whom serve the cause of Soviet foreign and domestic propaganda.

Mr. Business went to Mass. He never missed a Sunday. Mr. Business went to Mass, and use it to advance toward Peace and success in life as we have never advanced before.

— Integrity